



Grade 3 pupils of Moi Avenue Primary School in Nairobi County during a Tusome ("Let's Read" in Kiswahili) class session with teacher Anne Chelagat. Tusome is implemented in all public primary schools in Kenya. Credit: USAID/ Alex Kamweru

KENYA

TUSOME EARLY GRADE READING

Learning to read fluently in primary school is a critical foundational skill and one of the greatest predictors of academic success for a young student. Tusome ("Let's Read" in Kiswahili) is a flagship partnership between USAID and the Government of Kenya's Ministry of Education (MOE). Tusome is implemented through the MOE in 24,452 primary schools including over 1,500 low-cost private primary schools across Kenya. The Tusome technical approach employs research-driven learning materials, proven teaching methodologies, and an innovative tablet-based feedback and monitoring system to improve the literacy outcomes of 7.8 million pupils by 2021.

OUR WORK

Tusome supports literacy development throughout Kenya and fosters a reading culture among early-grade pupils, including children with visual and hearing impairments. Tusome has trained every public-school teacher in grades 1-3 and provided textbooks to every student.

Tusome trains teachers, administrators, instructional coaches, and Curriculum Support Officers based on practical classroom-based experiences. The trainings develop teachers' pedagogical skills in critical areas of reading instruction; empower head teachers (principals) to provide instructional leadership

for their schools; and enable education officials to upload real-time learner performance data to a cloud-based network that fosters greater accountability throughout the education system.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 2014, Tusome has:

- Provided reading instruction to 7.8 million students, achieving grade 2 English reading gains from baseline to end line equivalent to one additional year of schooling.
- Provided more than 26 million new English and Kiswahili textbooks and supplementary reading materials to all pupils in grades 1-3, ensuring a 1:1 pupil-to-textbook ratio.
- Adapted and distributed specialized teaching and learning materials for visually impaired and hearing-impaired pupils.
- Trained over 77,000 lower primary school teachers in 24,452 schools with state-of-the-art interventions that define how Kenyan children learn to read.
- Empowered over 1,200 Curriculum Support Officers in all 47 counties with innovative teaching methodologies to provide instructional support and coaching to teachers.
- Empowered 23 local youth groups to support reading practice among children in their communities and promote a culture of reading.
- Leveraged partnerships with the private sector to provide additional supplementary reading materials.
- Advanced sustainability by strengthening the Ministry of Education's capacity to improve student learning outcomes nationwide.

BUDGET: \$81 million

DURATION: 2014-2021

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

All public primary schools nationwide plus 1,500 low-cost private schools in Kenya

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

RTI International

KEY PARTNERS

Kenya Institute for Curriculum Development
Kenya Institute of Special Education
Kenya National Examinations Council
Ministry of Education
Teachers Service Commission

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